

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Serial No. 10/500,303
Attorney Docket No. 042471

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 6, 7, and 10 are allowed. Claim 1 is hereby amended (in addition to the amendments submitted in Applicant's February 17, 2006 Amendment.) No new subject matter is added. It is respectfully submitted that this Submission is fully responsive to the Advisory Action dated March 6, 2006.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 6, 7, and 10 are allowed.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kitamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,139,639) for the reasons stated below:

Kitamura et al. as shown in the 102 rejection (see Final Action mailed on November 17, 2005) discloses all the limitation of claim 1 including a discharge port capable of forming bead having a sectional configuration in which the height is larger than 0.9 times the width by adjusting the gap of the slot (see column 13, lines 23-28), the nozzle (die 40) disposed parallel to the surface or substrate (see Figs. 1-3); as well as the distance between the discharge port and the surface set to around 1.2-10 times the height of the bead overlapping the claimed range. As to the argument that *Kitamura et al.* does not disclose a non-circular discharge port, it's noted that in *Kitamura et al.* a circular discharge port is not taught.

To expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter, Applicants amend claim 1. In view of this amendment, the reasons stated in the February 17, 2006 Amendment, and the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for rejection.

Briefly, anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, each and every element recited in the claimed invention. Here, claim 1 recites that *the distance between said discharge port and the surface is 1.5-3X the height of said bead*. However, this element is not disclosed in the *Kitamura et al.* reference. For example, in the Advisory Action, the Examiner

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Serial No. 10/500,303
Attorney Docket No. 042471

concluded that *Kitamura et al.* anticipates claim 1, in part, because the reference discloses that the clearance Lc is “preferably maintained precisely within an overall range of 1.2 to a few tens of times the coating thickness.” (col. 14, lines 20-26) However, this disclosure references the coating thickness D, and not the coating liquid bead C. Whereas, the present invention references the height of the bead. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Also, contrary to the Examiner’s statement that all elements are disclosed in the *Kitamura et al.* reference, *discharges said material to form a bead*, is not. For example, *Kitamura et al.* discloses that the “die 40 has a front lip 58...the manifold 62 stretches in the length direction of the die 40.” See Col. 13: 1-7. With this arrangement, for example, the coating D is formed as an expanded film, and not as a bead. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments to claim 1 and the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of anticipation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-5, 8 and 9.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

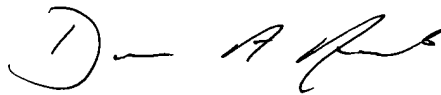
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Serial No. 10/500,303
Attorney Docket No. 042471

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. A. Auito', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darrin A. Auito
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,024
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DAA/meu